



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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***PSORALEA HYPOGAEA***  
**LITTLE INDIAN BREADROOT**

Little Indian Breadroot is a perennial with an inflorescence that is at ground level or on stems 1-2 cm long, overtopped by the leaves and arising from a subterranean connecting stem and a deep, club-shaped root that is up to 6 cm long. The long-petioled leaves are palmately divided into 3-7 linear-elliptic leaflets that are 25-50 mm long. Foliage is covered with dot-like glands and dense, white appressed hairs, but the upper leaf surfaces become glabrous with age. Purplish blue, pea-like flowers are borne in condensed spikes arising among the bases of the leaf petioles. The tubular calyx is 6-9 mm long and has 4 long, narrow lobes and a fifth that is longer and broader. The upper petal is 10-13 mm long and held forward. The hairy pods are egg-shaped, ca. 5 mm long, and each has a beak that is 5-13 mm long. Flowering late May-June.

*PSORALEA ESCULENTA* differs in that it has a distinct flowering stem with spreading pubescence on the foliage, while *P. HYPOGAEA* is stemless and has appressed pubescence.